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Customer Number

24024

Print Name: Wendy A. Frick



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| In re application of: | Williams et al. |) | Examiner: | James M. Hewitt |
| | |) | | |
| Serial No.: | 10/605,348 |) | Art Unit: | 3679 |
| | |) | | |
| Filed: | September 24, 2003 |) | Attorney Docket No.: | 22188/06726 |
| | |) | | |
| For: | FERRULE WITH RELIEF TO REDUCE GALLING |) | Confirmation No.: | 2347 |
| | |) | | |

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS

- In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.
- In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:
Reference NL 6710340 shows what appears to be a single tube gripping device 26 (Figs. 6 and 7) having a surface 11' that engages one end of the device to radially compress the device. Both ends of the device appear to contact the wall 1.
- Complete English translations of foreign language documents are being submitted herewith, and therefore no concise explanation for such documents is required.

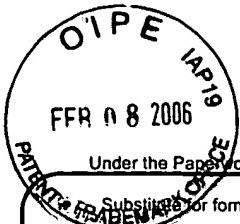
CERTIFICATION AND FEE PAYMENT INFORMATION

- The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (without a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier). Accordingly, Applicant submits the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). The fee is being paid in the following manner:
 - A check is attached in the amount of \$180.00 as required under 37 § 1.17(p).
 - Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 03-0172, order number 22188/06726.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb. 6, 2006

By: 
Leonard L. Lewis, Reg. No. 31,176
CUSTOMER NO. 24024
(216) 622-8683



FFR 08 2006

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

~~Substitute for form 1449/PTO~~

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

| Complete if Known | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number | 10/605,348 |
| Filing Date | September 24, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Williams et al. |
| Art Unit | 3679 |
| Examiner Name | James M. Hewitt |
| Attorney Docket Number | 22188/06726 |

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | |
| | | NL 6710340 | 01/29/68 | Gressel AG | |
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|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.